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CLASSIFICATION

~~SECRET~~

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

CIA/WHSS

SENSITIVE

CIA/DCI/WHIZWH 741108

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.4

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-2

DATE: 8 NOVEMBER 1974

SUBJECT: LUNA 23--OUTCOME IN DOUBT

REF : OSR MORNING BRIEFING, 8 NOV 74, SECRET

LUNA 23, THE SOVIET SPACECRAFT DESIGNED TO RETURN A LUNAR SOIL SAMPLE TO EARTH, REMAINS ON THE MOON FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL LANDING ON NOVEMBER 6.

THIS SUGGESTS THAT THE SOIL SAMPLE HAS NOT YET BEEN COLLECTED AND THAT PROBLEMS WITH THE SPACECRAFT MAY EXIST.

IN THE TWO SUCCESSFUL MISSIONS CONDUCTED TO DATE--LUNA 16 IN SEPTEMBER 1970 AND LUNA 20 IN FEBRUARY 1972--THE SPACECRAFT COMPLETED THE SOIL COLLECTION WITHIN 1 1/2 TO 2 HOURS AFTER LANDING AND LIFT-OFF FOR THE RETURN TRIP TO EARTH CAME ABOUT 24 HOURS LATER. LUNA 23 HAS BEEN ON THE LUNAR SURFACE FOR MORE THAN 48 HOURS. E-2 IMPDET.H

DATE: 8 NOV 74

ORIG: [REDACTED] /WHSS

25X1A9a

UNIT: CIA OPS CTR

EXT: 9340

25X1A9a

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CLASSIFICATION

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E-2 IMPDET